

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-09 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03

H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 SAM-01 SAJ-01 /079 W

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R 010512Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9921

INFO USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMCONSUL KARACHI

AMCONSUL LAHORE

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 3896

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CH, PK, UR, IR, IN

SUBJECT: PRC VICE PREMIER LI CONCLUDES SUCCESSFUL VISIT TO
PAKISTAN

REF:) ISLAMABAD 3515; B) HONG KONG 4288

SUMMARY: PRC VICE PREMIER LI AND PARTY DEPARTED
KARACHI APRIL 25TH FOR PEKING. HIS SIX-DAY VISIT TO
PAKISTAN WAS OCCASION FOR PUBLIC SHOW OF WARM SINO/PAK
RELATIONS. RESULTS OF ANY SUBSTANTIVE TALKS WITH GOP
OFFICIALS AS YET UNKNOWN BUT TWO SIDES EXCHANGED PUBLIC
STATEMENTS OF GOOD WILL AND OPPOSITION TO "HEGEMONISM
AND EXPANSIONISM," CRITICISM OF INDIAN MOVES IN SIKKIM
AND SUPPORT FOR SELF-DETERMINATION IN KASHMIR. DURING
HIS STAY LI HELD TWO MEETINGS WITH PRIME MINISTER BHUTTO,
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CALLED ON PRESIDENT FAZAL ELAHI CHAUDHRY, VISITED

CHINESE-FINANCED TAXILA HEAVY INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX AND CANADIAN-ASSISTED KANUPP NUCLEAR REACTOR, AND WAS FETED IN LAHORE AND KARACHI. THE GOP ARRANGED LARGE CROWDS, MANY PUBLIC RECEPTIONS AND MODERATELY HEAVY NEWSPAPER COVERAGE OF VISIT. END SUMMARY.

1. VISITING CHINESE VICE PREMIER AND PARTY WERE GIVEN THE RED-CARPET TREATMENT APPROPRIATE TO THE CLOSE RELATIONS OF THESE TWO ASIAN COUNTRIES (SEE REF A). FORMAL TALKS BETWEEN TWO SIDES OCCURRED APRIL 20 AND 21, LASTING OVER FIVE HOURS. PRIME MINISTER BHUTTO WAS ASSISTED BY MIN STATE AZIZ AHMED, FOREIGN SECRETARY AGHA SHAHI* AND OTHER MFA OFFICIALS. PRESS REPORTS SAID ONLY THAT TALKS COVERED "COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF WORLD SITUATION," BILATERAL RELATIONS, RELATIONS WITH OTHERS AND "PROGRESS BEING MADE BY THE TWO COUNTRIES IN VARIOUS SPHERES OF NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT." INTERESTINGLY, ARTICLE BY GOVERNMENT ACONOOOLLED PAK TIMES ON APRIL 20 PREDICTED THAT TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION WOULD INCLUDE ECONOMIC AND TRADE RELATIONS AND POSSIBLY COOPERATION IN THE DEFENSE FIELD. DESPITE PROBES, EMBASSY HAS BEEN UNABLE UNCOVER ANY CONFIRMATION THAT SPECIFIC PROJECTS OR GENERAL AMOUNTS WERE DISCUSSED (ALTHOUGH CHINESE REPORTEDLY PRESENTED EXPERIMENTAL WHEAT, RICE AND MAIZE SEEDS TO GOP). NO COMMUNIQUE WAS ISSUED AT END OF VISIT, BUT SPEAKING IN KARACHI LI DECLARED THAT HIS TALKS WITH BHUTTO HAD ZSEN "FRUITFUL" AND WERE CARRIED OUT IN A CORDIAL AND FRIENDLY ATMOSPHERE. IN LAHORE, LI SAID, QUOTE COOPERATION BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES IN POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, CULTURAL, SPORTS, SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL FIELDS HAS BEEN FURTHER STRENGTHENED. UNQUOTE.

2. ARRIVALS, DEPARTURES AND BANQUETS PROVIDED OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC SHOW OF CLOSE SINO/PAK FRIENDSHIP. PREDICTABLY, PAK NEWSPAPERS HIGHLIGHTED LI'S RHETORIC ON EXTENT OF CHINESE SUPPORT TO PAKISTAN, PRAISE SPES AK LEADERSHIP, AND COMMENTS CRITICAL OF INDIA (REF A). STANDARD FORMULA WAS COMMON PAK/CHINESE OPPOSITION TO "HEGEMONISM AND EXPANSIONISM" IN SOUTH CONFIDENTIAL

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ASIA. LI REFERRED TO INDIAN MOVES IN SIKKIM AND KASHMIRE BY CLAIMING QUOTE THEY HAVE EVEN ANNEXED A NEIGHBORING COUNTRY AND OCCUPIED KASHMIR AND (THUS) MADE THE SITUATION IN SOUTH ASIA TENSE UNQUOTE. EMBASSY NOTICED NO DIRECT ANTI-SOVIET RHETORIC EXCEPT FOR IMPLICATION IN LAHORE SPEECH. THERE, LI REPORTEDLY SAID QUOTE NOW SOUTH ASIAN EXPANSIONISTS, AT THE INSTANCE OF A SUPER POWER, ARE CONTINUOUSLY THREATENING AND

BULLYING THE NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES UNQUOTE. THERE WAS ALSO THE USUAL THEME OF THIRD WORLD SOLIDARITY, SUPPORT FOR PALESTINIAN PEOPLE'S STRUGGLE AND PRAISE FOR VICTORIOUS CAMBODIAN AND VIETNAMESE PEOPLE. REF B COMMENTED ON LI'S REMARKS CONCERNING THE THREAT OF WORLD WAR (INCREASING, BUT EMPHASIZING ROLE OF "AWAKENING PEOPLE," RATHER THAN SUPER POWERS, OVER FUTURE DESTINY OF MANKIND.)

3. PRESS HAS GIVEN THE HEAVY AND FAVORABLE COVERAGE TO THIS EVENT THAT WE WOULD EXPECT. HEADLINES INCLUDED "CHINA WILL ALWAYS BE A RELIABLE FRIEND," "COMMON STAKE IN JUST CAUSES." EDITORIALS GENERALLY REFLECTED THE THEME THAT CHINESE SUPPORT TO PAKISTAN HAD BEEN "STEAFAST" OVER THE YEARS AND CONCLUDED THAT LI VISIT WAS SUCCESSFUL IN FURTHER STRENGTHENING SINO/PAK FRIENDSHIP. KARACHI DAILY NEWS WROTE THAT PAKISTAN MUST DHLEARN LESSON OF SELF-RELIANCE FROM THE CHINESE PEOPLE; URDO LANGUAGE MUSAWAAT SAID PEOPLE'S VICTORY IN INDO-CHINA PROVED THAT COUNTRIES PURSUING EXPANSIONIST POLICIES WILL EVENTUALLY BE DEFEATED. PAK TIMES DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT H. K. BURKI USED LI'S VISIT AS EXCUSE TO CONTINUE REHASHING OLD US/PAK DIFFERENCES OVER OUR ASIAN POLICY.

4. IN LIGHT OF HONG KONG SPECUALTION CONCERNING PURPOSE OF VISIT AT THIS TIME (REF B) EMBASSY PROBED FOR INFORMATION WHETHE VISIT MIGHT HAVE BEEN LAST-MINUTE ARRANGEMENT AT REQUEST OF GOP. WE WERE TOLD BY MFA DIRECTOR GENERAL HAYAT MEHDI (SOUTH ASIA, UN) THAT TRIP WAS AT THE INVITATION OF THE GOP, PLANNED WELL IN ADVANCE AND ONLY QUESTION WAS WHETHER IT WOULD PRECEDE OR FOLLOW LI'S VISIT TO IRAN, A DECISION NOT MADE UNTIL LAST

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MINUTE. DIRGEN SAID SUCH VISITS NORMALLY GET LITTLE ADVANCE NOTICE (WHICH COINCIDES WITH EMBASSY EXPERIENCE). OTHER DIPLOMATS IN ISLAMABAD ARE SPECULATING THAT VISIT WAS MEANT TO EXPLAIN RESULTS OF RECENT CHINESE PARTY CONFERENCE TO NEARBY COUNTRIES (ACCORDING TO JAPANESE EMBOFF) OR AS PART OF CHINESE EFFORTS TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH IRAN AND MIDDLE EAST WITH WHOM GOP HAS CLOSE TIES (ACCORDING TO AUSTRALIAN DCM). EMBASSY AGREES WITH HONG KONG (REF B) THAT CHINESE VISIT MAY BE IN EXCHANGE FOR SEVERAL RECENT HIGH-LEVEL PAK VISITORS TO PRC.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: VICE PRESIDENT, VISITS, POLITICAL LEADERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 01 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975ISLAMA03896
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750153-0227
From: ISLAMABAD
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750590/aaaademl.tel
Line Count: 166
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75) ISLAMABAD 3515, 75 HONG KONG 4288
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <17 JUN 2003 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <18 JUN 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRC VICE PREMIER LI CONCLUDES SUCCESSFUL VISIT TO PAKISTAN
TAGS: PFOR, CH, PK, UR, IR, IN, (LI HSIEN-NIEN)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006